A LETTER FROM ROME,

Written by a *Roman Catholick* there, to a Perſon of Quality in *England*; giving a full Account of a MEMORIAL preſented to the Pope, in relation to the late King *JAMES*'s Affairs, with the Popes Anſwer, or rather Denial thereto.

4. June. 1689.

LICENSED, *May* 30. 1689.

SIR,

I AM glad the preſent Heat in *England* againſt thoſe of my Religion, has not brought upon me the misfortune of being loſt to your Remembrance, which I was the more jealous of, becauſe having written to you in *November* laſt, I receiv'd no return. I thank you for your News, in your Letter dated *March 6th*. Tho they cannot be pleaſant to me, yet I am glad to know the worſt.

In relation and obedience to your Commands, I ſhall give you a Scantling, how that mighty Revolution in *England* is reliſht here, and what are Peoples thoughts of King *James*'s Circumſtances.

His Holineſs manifeſts as little concern for that Kings Misfortunes, as if he had been none of his Sons; and by what Fate I cannot divine, ſcarce any of the Cardinals, except thoſe of the *French* Faction, ſeem to have any Compaſſion for him. This on the Popes part, will appear to you by a Speech made the laſt *Monday* to the Cardinal *de Eſte*, Brother to the Queen of *England*, and Protector of our Nation, which has made a mighty noiſe here, and was thus occaſion'd: That Cardinal had often demanded Audience of his Holineſs with the greateſt importunity; but whether from an Averſion to the Cardinals Perſon, or Intereſt, or ſome hidden Principle, the Pope could by no means be brought to grant it; at length, after long Attendance, the Cardinal was deſired to give ſome Account before-hand, of the ſubject Matter upon which he demanded Audience: Which the Cardinal told, was to lay before his Honeſs, *The ſad Circumſtances of his* Brittanick *Majeſty, and of the Catholicks in* England, *and humbly to intreat his Holineſs to endeavour an Union of all Catholick Princes for the Reſtauration of his* Britanick *Majeſty; and in the mean time, he had it in Command from that King, to beg his Holineſs to take into his Fatherly Protection and Tenderneſs the moſt Chriſtian King, whoſe Zeal to propagate the Catholick Religion, has ſo ſignally appeared, and upon whoſe Protection and Aſſiſtance, King* James *did moſt rely for the Recovery of his Kingdoms.*

This Breviat being delivered to his Holineſs, we were all big with expectation of the Cardinal *de Eſte*'s receiving a ſolemn Audience. But after a Weeks delay, we were mightily diſappointed: For inſtead of being admitted into the Popes Preſence, the *Maſter of the ſacred Palace* was commanded to attend the Cardinal *de Eſte*, at the Palace *Pamphilio*, where he publickly made him the Speech following, which I have given you in the neareſt words I can from the *Italian*.

His

His Holiness (said he) *has commanded me to wait upon your Eminence, and in his Name to tell you, That his Holiness as the common Father of Christendom, is very much afflicted with the present bad Circumstances of his dearest Son his* Britanick *Majesty, and the rather that his Misfortunes have been both sudden and unexpected: But he commands me likewise to tell you, That he looks upon that inseperable Conjunction betwixt that King and the King of* France, *and the Measures borrowed by him from the* French *Court, to have been the true Source of the King of* Britains *Miseries, especially considering the People of* England *were ever naturally inclinable to suspect their Kings Friendship with* France, *as tending to infringe their Liberties, and subject them to a* French *sort of Government, whereof they are so impatient. I'm commanded in the third place to tell your Eminence, That it is his Holinesses Opinion, That the Incroachments of the King of* France *upon the Empire and Territories of the Catholick King, together with his undutiful Carriage to the H.ly See, in point of the Franchises, has been the occasion of the Princes of the Empire, the King of* Sweden *and the* Hollanders *entring into a defensive and offensive League, and of the Prince of* Orange's *bold attempt upon* England; *so that the Breaches of* Europe, *and the Ruine of his* Britanick *Majesty, and of the Catholick Religion in those Kingdoms, now in possession of the Prince of* Orange, *must lye at the door of, and be imputed to the King of* France. *His Holiness commands me in the fourth place, to tell your Eminence, That in respect of this long War with the* Turks, *and the continuation of it by the instigation of the King of* France, *his Holiness has expended vast Sums of Mony, and is obliged to expend as much more as he can possibly spare, and is likewise oblig'd to fortifie his own Territories, and keep more Forces on foot than ordinary: For which reasons, it's utterly impossible for his Holiness to assist his* Britanick *Majesty with any Mony at this Juncture. I am commanded likewise to tell your Eminence in the last place, That for certain important and weighty Reasons, his Holiness cannot allow neither your Eminence, nor his Eminence the Cardinal de* Estres, *publick or private Audience.* Thus far the Master of the Sacred Palace's Speech.

You may easily conjecture how suprizing it was to the Cardinal *de Este*, and those of the *French* Faction. That I may not exceed the bounds of a Letter, I'le conclude it with telling you freely, the Opinion the most knowing Persons at *Rome* have of King *James*'s Affairs; and to deal sincerely with you, *They look upon them as next to, if not altogether, desperate*; from these Reasons: First, Because of the Prince of *Orange*'s Conjunction with the *Hollanders*, the King of *Sweden*, and the most of the considerable Princes of the Empire. Secondly, Because of the King of *France*'s being in open Hostility with the most of his Neighbours, and his bad Circumstances with the Pope; who if he had not been thus engag'd, was the only Prince in *Europe* most capable to retrieve King *James*'s Affairs. Thirdly, The extraordinary Conduct and Courage of the Prince of *Orange*, who is esteem'd to come short of no Prince in Christendom, both in Action and Cabinet. Fourthly, Because of the many and great Disobliegments put upon the *English* Nation, by *French* Counsels. And lastly, Because of the great hatred the most Princes of *Europe* bear to the *French* King, which will give them an Aversion to whatever side he is of, tho it should be the best.

I would write you more on this Head, but I am not assured this shall come to your hand, being obliged to send it the *Franckfort* Road; the *French* Post, as we hear, being stopt from going for *England*. If I find by your next that this comes safe to hand, you shall have account of what occurs most remarkable here, especially about *English* Affairs; and I expect you will give me what has occur'd since your last. I desire that it may not be known, what freedom I use in writing to you, least it should prejudice me here. I shall ever entertain all occasions of evidencing my self,

S I R,

Your very affectionate and most humble Servant.

Rome, April 20. V. S. 1689.